

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor of the invention entitled:

**METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR FORMING A BINDER COVER AND A RING BINDER**

described and claimed in the attached specification; including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to in the oath or declaration; that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification, and claims; that I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application; that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application; that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by myself or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application; that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. {1.56(a); and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by myself or my legal representatives or assigns.

I hereby appoint Jack Shore (Reg. No. 17,551), Marvin N. Benn (Reg. No. 26,705), Stephen J. Cassin (Reg. No. 34,098) and Adam Sacharoff (Reg. No. 43,075) and as our attorneys and member of the firm of HAMMAN & BENN, 10 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 3300, Chicago, Illinois 60603, telephone number (312) 372-2920, a member of the Bar of the State of Illinois, and patent agent Milton S. Gerstein (Reg. No. 27,891) of the same address, as our patent agent, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. It is requested that all correspondence be directed to Jack Shore at the above address.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE

Inventor: Stephen R. Welch Country of Citizenship USA

Inventor's signature SR Welch Date 4/28/01

Residence 1085 Flamingo Drive

Roselle, IL 60172

Post Office Address 68 Congress Circle West

Roselle, IL 60172

aks/4022105.dec

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100